REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested, for the rejection of the claims as anticipated by or unpatentable over FUJIWARA et al.

In FUJIWARA et al., the rotor of Figure 2 comprises a coupling portion 21 with integral tubular portion 22, and where the interior of tubular portion 22 serves as a fluid reservoir 23. In FUJIWARA, best viewed in Figure 2, the combined axial distance of the passages 24 and tubular portion 22 are at most equal to the distance between the respective rotor end faces residing adjacent housing flange 1a and housing plate 2a.

The exterior of the rotor is provided with guide grooves 25 so that the fluid entering the annular clearance surrounding the rotor is displaced from the rear (right hand) side of the rotor to the front (left hand) side.

In the interior of the rotor, communications passages 24 are disposed in the coupling portion 21 to connect the front (left hand) side of the rotor and the rear (right hand) side of the rotor via the fluid reservoir 23. As both communications passages 24 and inner surface of tubular portion 22 are inclined with respect to the central longitudinal axis denoted as Z, centrifugal force on the fluid held therein causes the fluid to be displaced from the front (left hand) side to the rear (right hand) side.

In effect, the fluid contained within the device of FUJIWARA is continuously being circulated between the annular clearance and the reservoir 23 during rotation of the rotor 20. This closed circuit-loop fluid circulation pathway therefore differs from the open circuit of the present invention.

We have amended the claims so as better to distinguish over FUJIWARA et al., by inserting part of claim 14 into claim 1, leaving the rest in line 14. Omitted claim 1 thus recites the longitudinal passageways extending along the axis of rotation for a distance greater than the distance between the first and second planar end faces. In FUJIWARA et al., by contrast, the internal detail in the rotor is at most equal to the total length between the end faces. See for example Fig. 2 of FUJIWARA et al.

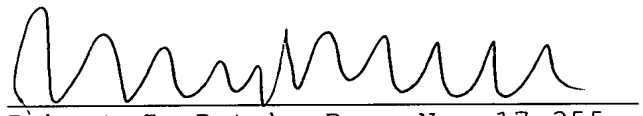
It is believed that the application has thus been placed in condition for allowance. Upon allowance, when selecting the figure to be printed on the cover sheet of the patent, do not select Fig. 1 as was done in the international application: Fig. 1 does not show the interior of the rotor, and so a view showing the interior of the rotor should be used on the cover sheet of the U.S. patent.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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